

## Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership Success Story



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### Partner Reduces Hazardous Waste by 70%

#### The Member

DENSO Manufacturing Tennessee, Inc., is part of DENSO Corporation's global network of 74 subsidiaries in 29 nations and the fourth largest producer of advanced technology, components and systems for all major automakers. The Tennessee facilities employ more than 2,900 associates at two locations, Maryville and Athens. Automotive components and systems produced at the Tennessee operations include the following:

**Maryville:** Alternators, starters, instrument clusters, and electronic components

**Athens:** Oxygen sensors, fuel injectors, air-flow meters, ignition coils, and spark plugs

#### The Story - Hazardous Waste from Cleaning Stainless Steel Parts

DENSO's Fuel Injector Plant used a petroleum distillate-based cleaning solvent to wash stainless steel parts from machining processes. The waste generated was considered a RCRA hazardous waste because the flashpoint was  $<140^{\circ}\text{F}$ .

In 2001, DENSO sent 14,146 pounds of cleaning solvent related hazardous waste off-site for disposal. This waste constituted 70% of all the hazardous waste generated at the Fuel Injector Plant.

#### New Idea - Change Cleaner So Waste is Non-Hazardous

The solution was to use a new non-hazardous cleaner that has a flashpoint  $>140^{\circ}\text{F}$ .

#### The Success

The petroleum distillate-based cleaning solvent was replaced with a new cleaner. The new cleaner waste was tested and has a flashpoint  $>140^{\circ}\text{F}$ . The waste is now considered non-hazardous according to the RCRA requirements.

#### The Pollution Prevented

DENSO eliminated 70% or 14,146 pounds of the hazardous waste generated at the Fuel Injector Plant.

#### Future Activities

Through "kaizen" or continuous improvement activities, we were able to execute our slogan, "Prevent Pollution: Reduce, Recycle, and Reuse". DENSO always looks for opportunities to prevent pollution and be a responsible corporate citizen.